

For Immediate Release – July 10, 2012

Contact: LuAnn Canipe (202) 225-3032 or 6089 /luann.canipe@mail.house.gov

U.S. Rep. Brad Miller Pays Tribute to Members of North Carolina Air National Guard Killed in the Line of Duty

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Brad Miller delivered remarks on the House floor today in tribute to four Air National Guard Airmen from North Carolina who died when their C-130 Hercules crashed in southwestern South Dakota on July 1st. Two other Airmen were injured in the crash during a mission to assist with the White Draw wildfire near the town of Edgemont, South Dakota.

The cause of the crash is under investigation. The Airmen were aboard the aircraft equipped with a U.S. Forest Service-owned Modular Airborne Firefighting System. They were supporting the civil authorities during a natural disaster, a key and unique mission of the National Guard.

The Congressman rose to speak in honor of the following Airmen:

Lt. Col. Paul K. Mikeal of Mooresville, North Carolina was assigned to the 156th Airlift Squadron as an evaluator pilot and had more than 20 years of service. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

Maj. Joseph M. McCormick of Belmont, North Carolina was an instructor pilot and chief of training for the 156th Airlift Squadron. He was married with four children.

Maj. Ryan S. David of Boone, North Carolina was an experienced navigator and was also

assigned to the 156th. He joined the North Carolina Air National Guard in 2011 after prior service in the active-duty U.S. Air Force. His wife and one child survive him.

SMSgt. Robert S. Cannon of Charlotte, North Carolina had more than 29 years with the 145th AW and was a flight engineer with the 145th Operations Support Flight. He was married with two children.

Click [here](#) to view Congressman Miller's remarks on the House floor today.

The full text of the Congressman's remarks:

Mister Speaker:

I rise today to honor the lives of Lt. Col. Paul K. Mikeal of Mooresville, N.C.; Maj. Joseph M. McCormick of Belmont, NC; Maj. Ryan S. David of Boone, N.C.; and, Senior Master Sgt. Robert S. Cannon of Charlotte, N.C.

The four Airmen of the North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing were supporting firefighting efforts throughout the Rocky Mountain area when their aircraft crashed on July 1.

Their sacrifice serves as a reminder of the selflessness of those who put their lives on the line to protect ours. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire North Carolina Air National Guard community. We are grateful for your service and courage.

###